

For Students Entering 8th Grade 🧐

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student,

Essayist Joseph Addison wrote, 'Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body'. Young people exercise their bodies to keep in shape, and any break in an exercise routine will cause them to immediately lose muscle tone. Similarly, it makes sense that any break in reading, the exercising of the mind, will diminish reading comprehension skills. Research has shown that time spent reading correlates with academic success, vocabulary development, standardized-test performance, attitudes toward additional reading, and the development of world knowledge (Moore, Bean, Birdyshaw & Rycik, 1999). With this in mind, the Fox Lane Middle School English teachers have created this summer reading assignment.

We are asking that each incoming 8th grade student read **two books** of their choice this summer. During the first few weeks of school, all students, under the direction of their English teacher, are required to complete an assignment based on the books they have read during the summer. Students may elect to read the **FOX READ** community book (5th-8th grade) titled ***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind. What's great about this book is that it's printed in three variations (the original, a Young Reader's edition, and a picture book; I'd recommend the Young Reader's version) and there are some Spanish editions as well. We'll have copies of all versions at all local libraries and a few local bookstores.***

For each book, students are required to **answer one (1) question** from each category below, **three (3) questions per book**. These responses should be written on index cards and brought to school the first week back.

CHARACTERS

- ☐ Identify a character that you liked / disliked and explain your reasoning.
- ☐ Does anyone in this book remind you of someone you know? Explain.

PLOT

- ☐ Do any incidents, actions or ideas remind you of your own life or something that happened to you? Explain.
- ☐ How does the title of the book fit with the action? Explain. Can you think of a better one? Explain.
- ☐ What would you change about this story to make it better? Explain.

OVER ALL

- ☐ What do you feel is the most important phrase, passage, or paragraph in the book? Explain.
- ☐ If you were an English teacher, would you want to share this work with your students? Why or why not?
- ☐ Would you suggest this book or author to 8th graders? Explain.

Happy Reading,

